



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Amendment

LCO No. 4853

HB0553204853HD0

Offered by:

REP. VILLANO, 91st Dist.

SEN. HANDLEY, 4th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5532

File No. 583

Cal. No. 155

"AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH POLICY."

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 17a-98a of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

5 (a) As used in this section, "relative caregiver" means a person who
6 is caring for a child related to such person because the parent of the
7 child has died or becomes otherwise unable to care for the child, and
8 "respite services" means a scheduled period of relief from the ongoing
9 parental responsibilities assumed by relative caregivers, not to exceed
10 fourteen days per calendar year.

11 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation
12 with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a program to
13 provide respite services to a relative caregiver who has been appointed
14 guardian or coguardian of a child by any court of competent

15 jurisdiction. Respite services available under such program, may
16 include, but shall not be limited to, enrollment of a child cared for by a
17 relative caregiver in a summer camp program.

18 (c) The Department of Children and Families, in consultation with
19 the Departments of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction
20 Services and Mental Retardation, shall establish, within available
21 appropriations, a kinship [foster care] navigator program. Such
22 program shall ensure that: [when the department] (1) When the
23 Department of Children and Families determines that it is in the best
24 interest of the child to be placed with a relative for foster care, the
25 department [shall inform] informs the relative regarding procedures to
26 become licensed as a foster parent, and (2) grandparents and other
27 relatives caring for a child related to such persons are provided with
28 information on the array of state services and benefits for which they
29 may be eligible, including the subsidy program established pursuant
30 to section 17a-126 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes. The
31 Commissioner of Children and Families shall ensure that information
32 on the array of services available under the kinship navigator program
33 is accessible through the 2-1-1 Infoline program.

34 (d) Not later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the
35 Commissioner of Children and Families shall report, in accordance
36 with section 11-4a, on the implementation of the kinship navigator
37 program to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
38 having cognizance of matters relating to human services and to the
39 select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
40 matters relating to children."